Q&A on Existing Chemicals

What is the status of prioritizing the next round of chemicals for risk evaluation?

- By December 22, 2019, EPA must designate 20 high-priority chemicals for ongoing risk evaluations and 20 low-priority chemicals.
- The Prioritization process must take between 9 and 12 months, to reach the December 2019 deadline. EPA is still on track to initiate prioritization for these 40 chemicals before March 22, 2019.

What is the status of the first ten risk evaluations?

- In November, we issued the first draft risk evaluation for Pigment Violet-29. We intend to issue the other 9 draft risk evaluations this year—marking an important step to get the first 10 risk evaluations over the finish line.

How is the Agency addressing transparency concerns relating to PV-29?

- Following the procedures set forth in EPA's general CBI regulations, the Agency is currently undergoing the process to make a determination on whether the PV-29 studies used in the draft risk evaluation are entitled to confidential treatment. Upon competition of the CBI substantiation process, the Agency may be able to release additional information and studies.
- The Agency is committed to transparency and the public review and comment process while, at the same time, assuring adequate protection for properly substantiated CBI.

Lead

What is the status of the dust-lead hazard standard rule?

- Addressing childhood lead exposure is a priority for EPA. As part of EPA's efforts to reduce childhood lead exposure, EPA proposed a rule to revise the current dust-lead hazard standards.
- EPA intends to finalize the proposed revisions to the dust lead hazard standards by June 2019.

What about dust lead clearance levels?

- Although last year's proposed lead rule did not address clearance levels, EPA intends to review and, if necessary, revise the clearance levels at a later date.

Asbestos

Why isn't EPA considering legacy uses in the asbestos risk evaluation?

- EPA is focusing its risk evaluation on asbestos currently manufactured, imported, processed

or distributed in the United States, which falls within the agency's TSCA jurisdiction. Many existing Federal and State regulations protect against asbestos exposure from legacy uses.

What will the asbestos SNUR accomplish?

- EPA's proposed Significant New Use Rule would immediately prohibit certain unregulated uses of asbestos and require a review from EPA which may result in restrictions, including continued prohibition.
- We received a comments on the proposed SNUR requesting EPA to broaden the scope of the rule. We are giving serious consideration to this expansion as well as other comments on the SNUR.
- Without this SNUR, these uses can commence in the United States at any time without review and regulation from EPA.

Section 6 Rules

What is EPA doing about methylene chloride?

- EPA plans to issue a final determination for the use of methylene chloride in paint and coating removal shortly.
- EPA will address the non-painting and coating uses for methylene chloride in the agency's pending risk evaluation.
- [if asked: OMB has an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Commercial Paint and Coating Removal Training, Certification and Limited Access at OMB undergoing review. After review is complete, we will look forward to discussing the details with the public.]

What about the other Section 6 rules on TCE and NMP?

- EPA is evaluating identified uses of trichloroethylene (TCE) and N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) as part of the first ten chemicals undergoing chemical risk evaluations under amended TSCA. Draft risk evaluations will be released for public comment and peer review before finalization. EPA is striving to meet its statutory deadlines.
- For TCE and NMP, the health effects identified in the risk evaluation were extrapolated from animal studies and had greater uncertainty around them. The risk evaluations for these chemicals will be more robust if the conditions of use are evaluated by applying the guidance and approaches required by amended TSCA, including adoption of the transparent systematic review approaches.